

THE⁸
PETITION
Of the Gentrie, Ministers, and Com-
monalty of the County of
KENT.

Agreed upon at the Generall Assizes last holden
for that County.

The Copie of which Petition being delivered to Judge
Mallet (who was for that Circuit) and afterwards
to the Earle of *Bristol*.

Which Petition being concealed from the Parlia-
ment by the Earle of *Bristol*, and the
said Judge *Mallet* was for the same,
both committed to the
Tower, *March 28.*

1642.



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T O

The Honorable House of Commons

Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

The Humble Petition of the Gentry, Ministers, and Commonalty of the County of KENT, agreed upon at the generall Assizes of the County.

Most humbly SHEVVETH,

TH A T wee cannot but take notice, how welcome to this Honorable House, many Petitions have been, which yet came not from an Assembled body of any County (as this doth) we doe therefore hope to finde as gentle and favourable a reception of this, as any other have found of their Petitions, our hearts witnessing unto us, as good, peaceable, and pious purposes as the best.

These are therefore the true and Ardent desires of this COUNTY.

1. That you will be pleased to accept of our true and hearty thanks for those excellent Lawes (which by His Maiesties grace and goodnesse) you have obtained for us.

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2. That

2. That all Lawes against Papists, be put in due execution, and an account taken of their disarming, and that all Children of the Papists, may be brought up in the reformed Religion.

3. That the Solemne *Liturgy* of the Church of England (Celebrous by the piety of the Bishops and Martyrs, who composed it) establish'd by the supream Lawes of this Land, attested and approved by the best of all Forraigne Divines, confirmed by the subscription of all the Ministry of this Land, A Clergie as able and learned, as any of the Christian world ere injoyed, and with a holy love embraced by the most and best of all the Laity, that this holy exercise of Religion may by your Authority be injoyed quiet and free from interruptions, scornes, prophaneesse, threats and force of such men, who daily doe deprave it, and neglect the use of it in divers Churches, in despite of the Lawes established.

4. That Episcopall Government, as Antient in this Iland as Christianity it selfe, deduced and dispersed throughout the Christian world, even from the Apostolicall times, may be preserved (as the most pious, most prudent, and most safe Government) for the peace of the Church.

5. That all differences concerning Religion and Ceremonies, may be referred to a lawfull, free, and Nationall Synod, as your Remonstrance promiseth, to a generall Synod of most grave, learned, pious and Iudicious Divines (the proper agents) whose interests, gifts, and callings, may quicken them in that great Worke, whose choyce to be by all the Clergie of the Land, because all the Clergie are to bee bound
by

by their Resolutions, and the determination of this Synod to bind us all, when you have first formed them into a Law, and this we take to be according to the ancient and fundamentall Law of this Land, confirmed by *Magna Charta*.

6. That some speedy and good provision may be made (as by his Maieſty hath beene, and is by all good men deſired) againe the odious & abominable ſcandall of ſchiſmatical and ſeditious Sermons and Pamphlets, and ſome ſevere Law made againſt Lay-men, for daring to arrogate to themſelves, and to execute the holy function of the Miniſtry, who (ſome of them) doe ſowe their impious and diſcontented Doctrine even in Sacred places, by abuſe of Sacred Ordinance, to the advancing of Hereſie, Schiſme, Profaneneſſe, Libertiniſme, Anabaptiſme, and Atheiſme.

7. That if the coertive power of Eccleſiaſticall Courts, by way of Excommunication be already abrogated, or ſhall be thought fit ſo to bee, that there be ſome other power and authority ſpeedily eſtabliſhed, for ſuppreſſing the heynous, and now ſo much abounding finnes of Inceſt, adultery, and Fornication, and other crimes, and for recovering Tythes, repairing of Churches, Probate of Wills, Church aſſeſſes, providing Bread and Wine for the Communion, and choice of Church-wardens, and other Officers in the Church, and eſpecially for Miniſters, who neglect the Celebrating of the holy Communion, and the Pariſhioners for not Receiving.

8. That the profeſſors of that learned faculty of the civil Law & (without which this kingdom cannot but ſuffer manifold Inconveniencies) may not find diſcouragement, and ſo divert their ſtudies & Profeſſions.

9. That honor and profits, the powerfull encouragements of industry, learning, and Pietie, may be preserved without further diminution to the C.ergie.

10. That you please sadly to consider the bleeding wounds of our Brethren in *Ireland*, & with speedy succours, endeavour to preserve them, whereunto his Maiestie hath promised a gracious concurrence.

11. That you please to frame an especiall law for the Regulating of the *Militia* of this Kingdome, so that the Subiect may know how at once to obey both His Maiestie, and both Houses of Parliament, a Law whereby may be left to the discretion of Governors, as little as may be, but that the number of Armes and what measure of punishment shall be inflicted upon the offenders, may be expressly set downe in the Act, and not left to any Arbitrary power, and that according to the president of former lawes, the Offenders may not be tryed out of the County.

12. That the precious Libertie of the Subiect (the common birth-right of every *English-man*) may be as in all these points preserved entire, so in this also, that no order of either of both Houses, not grounded on the Lawes of this Land, may be enforced on the Subiect, till it be fully enacted by Parliament.

13. That His Maiestie gracious Message of the 20. of *January* last, for the present and future establishment of the Priviledges of Parliament, and free enjoying of our estates and Fortune, the libertie of our persons, the securitie of the true Religion professed, the maintaining of his Maiesties Iust and Regall authority, the establishing His Revenue, may be taken into speedy consideration, the effecting whereof will satisfie

the desires of all us His faithfull, and loving
Subiects.

14. That all possible care may be taken, that the
Native Commodities of this Kingdome, may have a
quick vent, and that Cloathing, and other Manufa-
ctures may be improved, wherein the livelyhood of
many thousands doe consist, and that Trade may be
ballanced, that the importation doe not exceed the ex-
portation, otherwise it will prove a consumption of
the Land.

15. That you please to frame some Lawes concern-
ing Depopulations, Purveyances, Cart-taking, delayes
in iustice,, Trafficke, Fishing in the Coast, Fulling
Earth, that our Sea Forts may be repayred, and our
Magazines renewed.

19. That you please to consider the generall poverty
that seemes to overgrow this Kingdome.

17. Lastly, We humbly beseech you to consider the
sad conditior, that we and the whole Land are in, if a
good understanding be not speedily renewed betweene,
his Maiestie and both houses of Parliment. Our hopes
are yet above our feares, secure them we beseech you,
God direct and guide your consultations for the remo-
ving of all distrusts and Iealousies, for the renewing that
tye of confidence and trust, (which is the highest hap-
pinesse) betweene our gracious Prince, and his loving
Subiects

*And you shal have the dayly prayers of your humble Orators of
the Commonalty of Kent.*

To meet at Black-Heath the 29. of Aprill. by 9. of the
Clocke at the furhest, to accompanie this Petition to
the Parliament. 1642.

FINIS.